

CREATING WORLDS:

YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD DO
THAT

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

So you want to be a writer? More especially you want to become a narrative writer? Maybe a writer of fiction or non-fiction? You want to experience the thrill of going to a bookshop and looking at the stands and seeing your paperbacks or hardcover books gracing the shelves? You want to be able to log onto an online bookstore and see your material being advertised among the most read or downloaded? Or, the best, it just feels good to read a story and go, “Wow, did I actually write that?” It may seem like a far-fetched dream, yet it is possible. But you ask, “How?”

How many times do you remember having picked up your pen or pencil to write something—maybe an idea crept into your head about the adventures of a crime-solving brunette with super-fighting skills, or an alien civilization that travels through space and time to conquer Earth, or just a comical story about Wade, a shy and timid boy in an isolated area of New Orleans, who is learning what it takes to grow up in a batty neighbourhood full of people that practice strange voodoo—and you just didn't know where to begin.

You try a start-off like: “Kate was going to a meeting of the cheerleaders when she saw the man with the weird eye standing by the truck and looking at her.” Or “In a land far, far away (hey, I didn't get that from *Shrek!*) called Hemon, a giant ruler with big bulging eyes commanded a clan of six-legged creatures.” Or everyone's favourite beginning (at least when you were six years old). “Once upon a time...Wade, a twelve year old orphan boy was taken from the more genteel quarters of Garden District to live, with his grandparents, in the dilapidated, rat-filled quarters of the little-known Smokey Ville,.” But none of these starters seems right. Half way across the first page you cancel your writing and begin all over again. It appears to you that you can't get through two pages, not to talk of the hundred, or thereabout, that you're aiming for.

Then, at last, you throw your pen aside or turn off your writing software, wondering if you were mad in the first place to have ever thought you could write anything.

It's so sad actually, but a lot of potentially good writers have shelved a writing career because of this; a lot have given up, just because they CAN'T GET THE HANDLE ON HOW TO GO ABOUT WRITING.

But what those people need to know is that many—so many—writers began writing in a similar manner—before they got into full swing of it, and all else seemed like piece of cake. There are usually things to overcome. I've been penning down stories for as long as I can remember, yet I recall specific moments in the past when it didn't seem all that easy. And even now, sometimes, when I pick up the pen to write or I sit before my computer, I'd wish I were doing something else, because it *is* difficult to put down ideas, and even more difficult to have the bunch make the exact sense you want it to make to the potential readers, if it's not just for yourself you're writing. And, you know what? Sometimes when I feel like that I actually go and do that which I'd rather be doing at the moment; and, when I feel that I am ready to write, I come back and get down to

it. But, I hear you say, that's exactly what I'm talking about—it's just too damn difficult to write.

You know what? You're probably right. But what you need to do is to be patient with yourself. Hey, don't believe you can't write just because you happen to feel lazy now, or you haven't gotten used to it or you're stressed up or you have a writer's block or you just aren't confident enough. Look for the right moment that you can, because, believe it or not, there is always that moment; and once you're hooked into the plot, if you really love the creativity, you're hooked. Does that seem clearer now? The secret of good and successful writing is not forcing yourself to write, but writing what you love, at best, when you feel it. I found that out long ago on my own, and, surprisingly or not, it has proven to be one of the most reliable methods in bringing out the excellence in any writer, or artist for that matter.

But you definitely have to make out time for writing if you're really serious about it. This might mean staying away from the bustle of night clubs or forfeiting those sitcoms you'd rather be watching. But sure you want the fulfilment of knowing that you've accomplished a masterpiece? Then go for it. It is one of the greatest and most rewarding experiences you're opportune to know in life—being a writer.

Another thing that is necessary for you to get started is that you need to stop comparing the uniqueness of your writing to that of that well-known author whom everyone is singing praises about or whom you feel is an epitome of excellence in the craft. Everyone is gifted in his or her own way And all that one person probably did was convey to you an idea/feeling (s)he had, in the way that (s)he wanted to or is capable of. And that is what you should do—convey your idea/feelings in the way that you want to or are capable of. We live in an age of commercialism, where you can get to see a prolific author whose books are selling tens of thousands to millions all over the bookstores and internet. But quantity doesn't always mean quality, neither should that trend lure you into replacing the wonderful ideas and emotions that are unique to you, and you alone; therefore making you to pattern your ideas in accordance with someone else's, just so you too can become a commercial success. Your story is your own, tell it, and in the way that you are most comfortable with. You just might be surprised to discover how much headway you can make with that. There is always room for everyone; at times all one has to do is to clear the junks in order to see it.

In an era that focuses mainly on the agitated side of life as a means of relating to young ones—where many things are come quick, die quick—many have forgotten the importance of books, of stories, in our lives. That great foundation that formed the base of the mighty citadel. Yet, even in the midst of the dazzle, we just cannot do without them—it's the simple things in life that end up making life worth living; the simple things in life that we always come home to—and as always the pen is mightier than the sword. You don't know how many people's lives you can brighten by just penning down something they can relate to in the quiet corners of their room; by taking them to a world that they can live in and be happy, excited or relieved, even if temporarily—that experience would last with them. Heck, by writing, you can be creating worlds for people—you can be creating worlds for yourself!

And that is what this book is about. In the next chapter I'll remind you what you need in order to get started on the path of any creative story-writing. I say remind,

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because many already have it without really realizing its importance—it's the importance of reading.